

Appendix D – List of Definitions

Abundant (Vision Statement)

A food supply that is occurring in abundance (“ample quantity” or “relative degree of plentiful ness”).

Affordable (Goal 2)

A food supply that is priced within one’s means; moderately priced and available to most consumers.

Agricultural Partners (Mission Statement and Scorecard)

Federal, State, local agencies, non-governmental and community-based organizations, and private businesses or institutions which have an interest in agriculture and with whom FSA has an agreement (either written or verbal) to cooperate for the benefit of the agricultural community at large.

Agricultural Communities (Goal 1, End Outcome 3)

Counties where 15 percent or more of average annual labor and proprietor’s income is derived from farming during 1998-2000 or 15 percent or more of employed residents worked in farming occupations in FY 2000.

Agricultural Products

Combination of all raw commodities (see definition) produced by farmers and ranchers and processed food such as cheese, non-fat dry milk, and soybean oil.

Agricultural Programs (Mission Statement)

Agricultural programs are programs administered by FSA/CCC authorized by legislation or the CCC Charter Act in support of agricultural producers, agribusiness, the environment, and consumers.

Beginning Farmer (Program Alignment/Goal 1, Objective 1)

A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who (1) has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years; (2) meets FSA’s eligibility requirements for the program to which he/she is applying; (3) substantially participates in the operation; and, (4) for FSA’s farm ownership loan purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the average size farm in the county. (Note: all applicants for direct farm ownership loans must have participated in business operation of a farm for at least 3 years.)

Commodities (Goal 2)

Commodities are crops grown by farmers. Specific commodities supported under the Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program (DCP), a six year program authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (aka The 2002 Farm Bill) include: barley, corn, grain sorghum, (including dual purpose varieties that can be harvested as grain), oats, canola, crambe, flax, mustard, rapeseed, safflower, sesame and sunflower (including oil and non-oil varieties), peanuts, rice, (excluding wild rice), soybeans, upland cotton and wheat. Other commodities supported by FSA include: milk, tobacco, lamb meat, wool, mohair, and myriad other crops for which their loss is partially covered in the event of a natural disaster.

Electronic Document (Goal 1, Objective 1)

Any document that is generated, sent, received, or stored by electronic, optical, or similar means, including, but not limited to, electronic data interchange, e-signatures, e-authentication, advanced communication methods, electronic mail, telegram, telex, or telecopy.

Electronic Government (E-Gov)

E-Government is the use of information technology (IT) and the Internet, together with the operational processes and people needed to implement these technologies, to deliver services and programs to constituents, including citizens, businesses and other government agencies. E-Government improves the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of government services.

Electronic Warehouse Receipts (EWRs) (Goal 1, Objective 1: Outputs)

The electronic warehouse receipt, authorized under the USWA, creates an enforceable contract between warehouse operator and farmer and contains terms and conditions that are acceptable to bankers. It is a negotiable document of title facilitating marketing of commodity. {Note: I copied and revised just as a warehouse receipt}

Environmentally Sound (Vision Statement)

Farming and ranching practices that have a benign effect on existing physical, chemical, and biological conditions.

Equitably (Mission Statement)

FSA strives to deal fairly and equally with all concerned.

Food Aid (Goal 2, Objective 3)

The activities involved with procuring and distributing agricultural commodities and products performed by FSA's Commodity Operations Divisions for use in the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service's domestic food assistance programs such as the National School Lunch Program and domestic programs benefiting needy families and the elderly. Food Aid also has an international component as FSA purchases bulk commodities for delivery to needy recipients worldwide as authorized by the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) *Public Law 480 Title II and III* program and the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) *Food for Progress* program.

Highly Erodible Land (Goal 3, Objective 2)

Statute defines highly erodible land as land having an erodibility index of 8 or greater. The erodibility index for a soil is determined by dividing the potential annual average rate of erosion by its predetermined soil loss tolerance (T) value. The (T) value represents the maximum annual rate of soil erosion that could occur without causing a decline in long-term soil productivity (7 CFR Part B, Section 12.21).

Human Capital Management (Scorecard)

FSA's ability to leverage the acquisition, development and retention of a high performing, diverse workforce that effectively supports the accomplishment of Agency goals.

Invasive Species (Goal 3, Objective 3)

Invasive species are those species of plants and animals which are not native to North America which, when introduced, can cause considerable damage to the environment, humans or to the economy.

An "invasive species" is defined as a species that is 1) non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health (Executive Order 13112 of February 3, 1999 – Invasive Species).

Invasive species can be plants, animals, and other organisms (e.g., microbes). Human actions are the primary means of invasive species introductions

Managerial Cost Accounting System (Scorecard)

The processes and procedures, whether automated or not, or whether included in a general ledger or not, that accumulates and reports consistent and reliable cost information and performance data.

Market Losses (Goal 1, Objective 2)

Market losses are price declines suffered by producers from levels established by legislation

Market-oriented (Vision Statement)

A market oriented farm program allows producers to respond to market forces by reducing or eliminating government-imposed policies that restrict a producer's ability to respond to supply and demand conditions

Material Weakness (Scorecard)

An auditing term referring to a condition in which internal controls do not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that material errors or fraud may occur and not be detected in a timely period by employees in the normal course of their duties.

Outreach (Scorecard)

Defined as the "act of reaching out." For FSA purposes, outreach is the act of informing and engaging all agricultural producers about the programs and services offered by the Agency in an effort to increase program participation, enhance farmers and ranchers productivity, and reduce complaints. Outreach efforts are specifically targeted at reaching those racial and ethnic minority producers and women producers who have historically been underserved by FSA.

Productive (Goal 1)

Having the quality or power of producing especially in abundance.

Secure (Goal 2)

FSA seeks to help American farmers and ranchers provide the world with a trustworthy, safe, and dependable food supply for years to come.

Short-filled Contracts (Goal 2, Objective 3) occur when a food aid recipient requests commodity, but Commodity Operations is unable to procure the commodity. Some reasons for the short fill could be industry production operating at full capacity levels, market conditions, Acts of God, etc.

Racial and Ethnic Minorities/Targeted Groups (Goal 1, Objective 1 and Scorecard)

FSA is targeting the following underserved agricultural minority populations -- Hispanic or Latino, Black or African American, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders engaged in agriculture or interested in becoming landowners or agricultural operators.

Stable (Goal 2)

A food supply that is steady, consistent, and does not fluctuate greatly.

Stakeholder (Scorecard)

For FSA purposes, a stakeholder is any individual who has a vested interest in the successful operation of the Agency. A stakeholder can be an FSA employee, a producer, or an external entity such as a State Department of Agriculture, a community-based, non-governmental organization, or an agricultural commodity or trade organization.

Subordination (Goal 1, Objective 1: Outputs)

A temporary change in security position to allow another lender to make a loan. Common uses of subordinations include a temporary release of security in order for another lender to provide annual operating funds or a release in a small portion of real estate so that another lender can provide financing of capital improvements, i.e. house or buildings.

Success (Goal 1, End Outcome 1)

Success from an agricultural or rural viewpoint means having sufficient income to live in a manner which allows for adequate family living, retirement of debt and expansion of the operation. It is generally believed that rural residents will accept a lower income level in exchange for a better quality of life versus urban residents.

Warehouse Violations (Goal 2, Objective 2)

A violation is the failure of a warehouse operator to have conducted a risk assessment and to have a written Homeland Security Plan as identified by a FSA examiner during the course of a warehouse examination.

Warehouse Receipts (Goal 1, Objective 1: Outputs)

The warehouse receipt, authorized under the USWA, creates an enforceable contract between warehouse operator and farmer and contains terms and conditions that are acceptable to bankers. It is a negotiable document of title facilitating marketing of commodity.